

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 19, 22, 23, 28 and 37-46 would be allowable if rewritten into independent form including all of the limitations of their respective based claims, and that claim 21 would similarly be allowable if so rewritten and further amended to cure an antecedent basis issue.

Applicants have rewritten claim 1 to include all of the limitations of claim 21 as amended, and intermediate claims. Applicants has also rewritten claims 19, 22, 28, 37 and 46 into independent form including all limitations of base and intervening claims. Based on the Examiner's indications, these claims should now be allowable.

Applicants have also amended each of rejected independent claims 62 and 63 to recite "wherein the optical mode is a hybrid surface plasmon mode." The Examiner stated at pages 5-6 that "Nor does the art teach [in combination] the use of a 'hybrid surface plasmon mode' ". Accordingly, based on the Examiner's indication, independent claims 62 and 63 should also be allowable.

All outstanding issues have been addressed and this application is in condition for allowance. Should any minor issues remain outstanding, the Examiner should contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below so they can be resolved expeditiously without need of a further written action.

KOCHERGIN
Appl. No. 10/764,496
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Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

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